

Data was collected in May 13 –24<sup>th</sup> 2002. The Research Coordinator undertook the responsibility of the final editing and package of the Answer Sheets, the Header Sheets, the Classroom-Level Forms, and the School Level Forms. The answer sheets were checked and enrolment data was reconciled with the number of questionnaires. They were then couriered to the Center for Disease Control, USA, where the data was analyzed.

## ANALYSIS

In analysis a weighing factor was applied to each student record to adjust for non-response and the varying probabilities selection. The programs SUDAAN and Epi -info were used to compute rates and 95% confidence intervals for the estimates. A weight has been associated with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of non-response. The weight used for estimation is given:

$$W=W1*W2*f1*f2*f3*f4*.$$

W1= the inverse of probability of selecting the school

W2= the inverse of the probability of selecting the classroom within the school.

F1= a school-level non- response adjustment factor calculated by school size category (small, medium, large)

F2= a class-level non response- adjustment factor calculated for each school.

F3= a student-level non-response adjustment factor calculated by class.

F4= a post stratification adjustment factor calculated factor by class.

## RESULTS

A total of forty- eight (48) schools of the fifty- (50) sampled schools participated in the survey. Out of 2009 sampled students, 1920 responded to the questionnaire. The National School Response rate was 96% and the Student Response Rate was 95.6% while the Overall Response Rate was 91%. The survey was done Nationally therefore the results depict the National response of the school and students in Botswana.

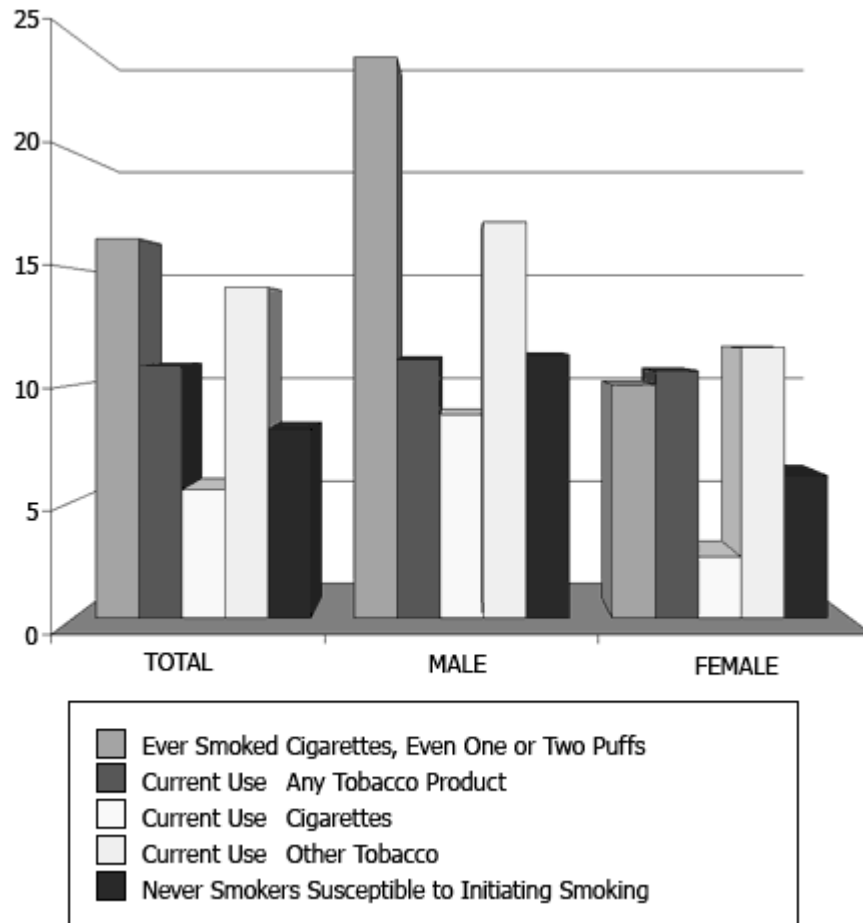
### Background Characteristics of students

|                     |               | <b>n</b> | <b>%</b>          |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|
| <b>Gender</b>       | <b>Male</b>   | 850      | 44.4 (1.8 + \ -)  |
|                     | <b>Female</b> | 1060     | 55.6 (1.8 + \ -)  |
| <b>Class (Form)</b> | <b>1</b>      | 638      | 33.5 (10.5 + / -) |
|                     | <b>2</b>      | 759      | 33.8 (12.7 + / -) |
|                     | <b>3</b>      | 503      | 32.6 (11.5 + / -) |
| <b>Age</b>          | <b>&gt;11</b> | 10       | 0.6 (0.4 + / -)   |
|                     | <b>12</b>     | 10       | 0.5 (0.5 + / -)   |
|                     | <b>13</b>     | 97       | 5.1 (2.2 + / -)   |
|                     | <b>14</b>     | 425      | 21.5 (4.4 + / -)  |
|                     | <b>15</b>     | 562      | 27.0 (4.6 + / -)  |
|                     | <b>16</b>     | 497      | 27.1 (5.1 + / -)  |
|                     | <b>17&lt;</b> | 306      | 18.2 (4.9 + / -)  |

**Table 1- background characteristics**

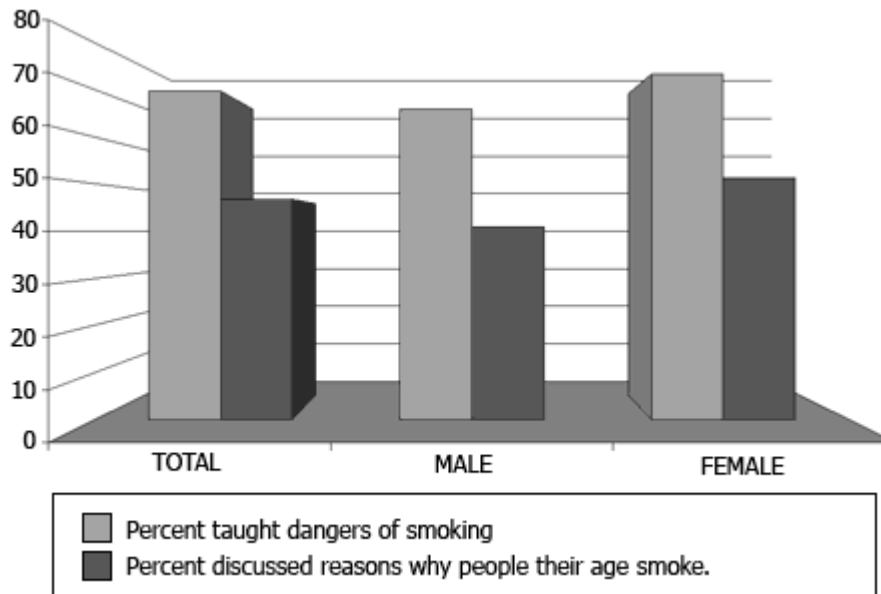
Above 40% male students (44.4%) and about 56% female students (55.6%) participated in the survey. The students were evenly distributed on the classes with no significant difference by class. More than half of the sample students (56.5%) were 13-15year olds while 41.8% were 16years and older as reflected by table 1.

## Prevalence



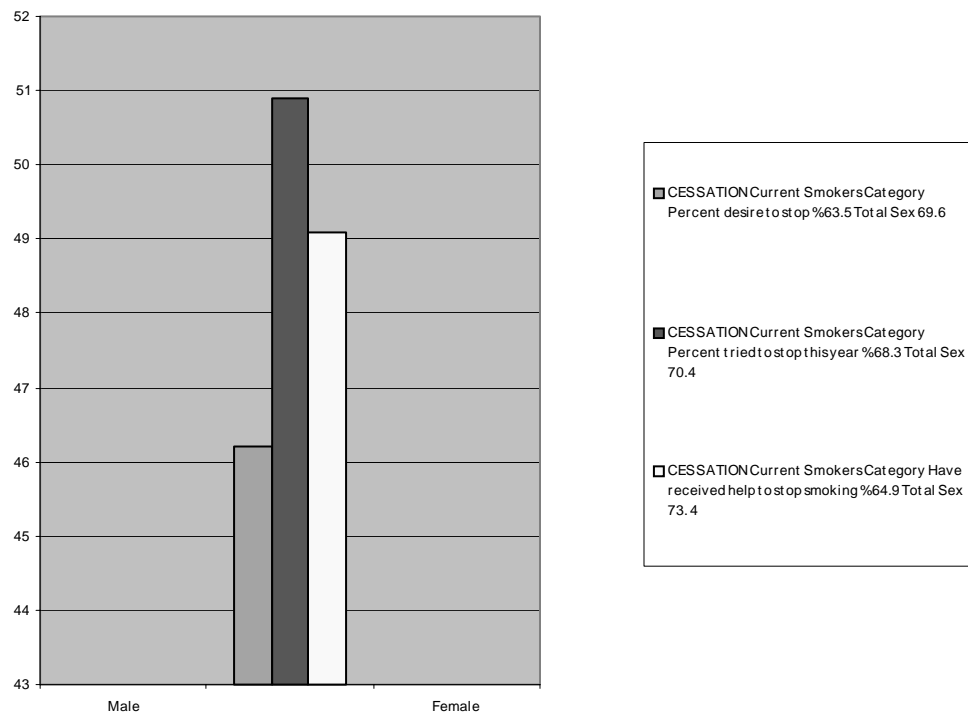
The main categories, which the students were classified with, were never smokers; ever smokers and current smokers. Never smokers are those students who have not admitted, to or have never tried or experimented with cigarette smoking, even one two puffs. Ever smokers are all those students who have admitted to have ever tried or experimented with cigarette smoking. More than one out of 10 of students have ever smoked with ever smoked significantly higher for male than female (table 2). One out of 10 of students have currently used any tobacco product with no significant difference by gender. About 6% of the students currently smoked cigarettes (55.5%) while more than 10% of students (14.2%) currently used other tobacco products with male currently smoking and using other tobacco products significantly higher than females. 8% of the never smokers are susceptible to initiating smoking and male students are more susceptible than females.

## Curriculum



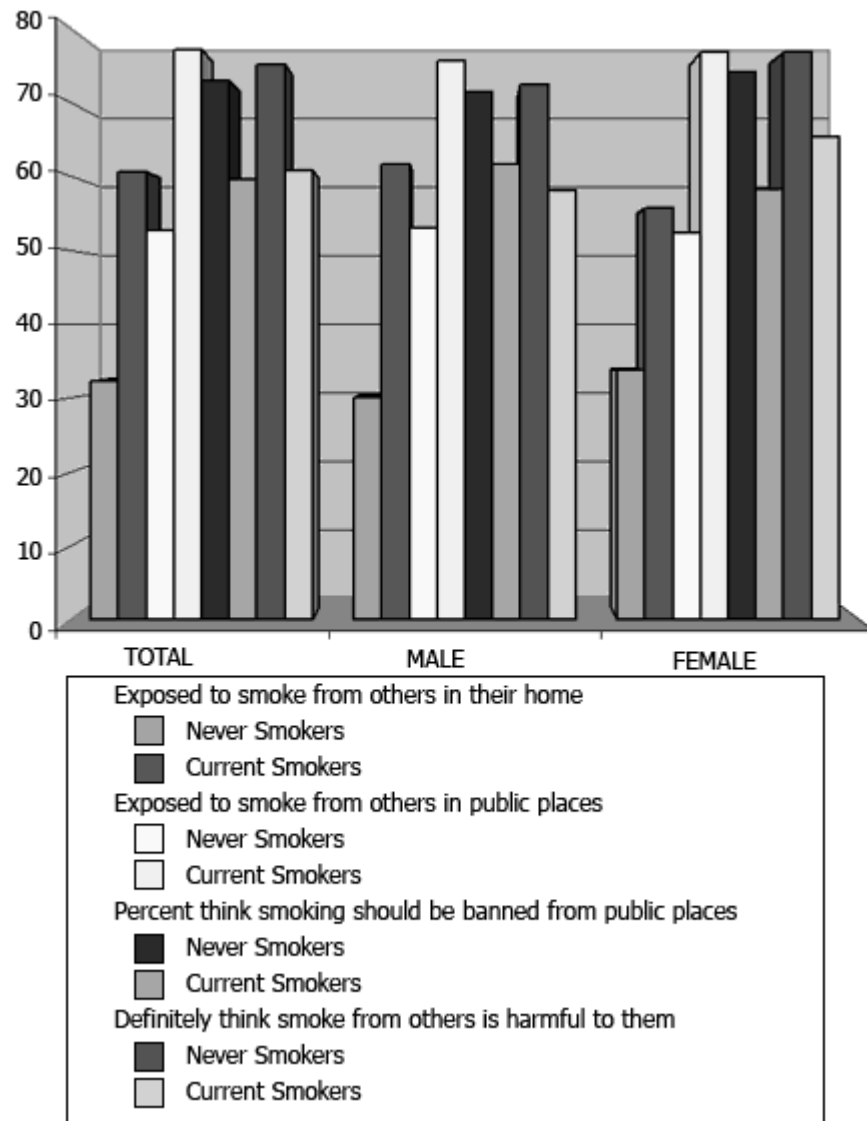
Students were asked several question on what they were taught during the past year and about seven out of ten had been taught about the dangers of smoking (69.8%) with nearly half having discussed reasons why people their age smoke. There were highly significant differences by gender. (Table 3)

## CESSATION



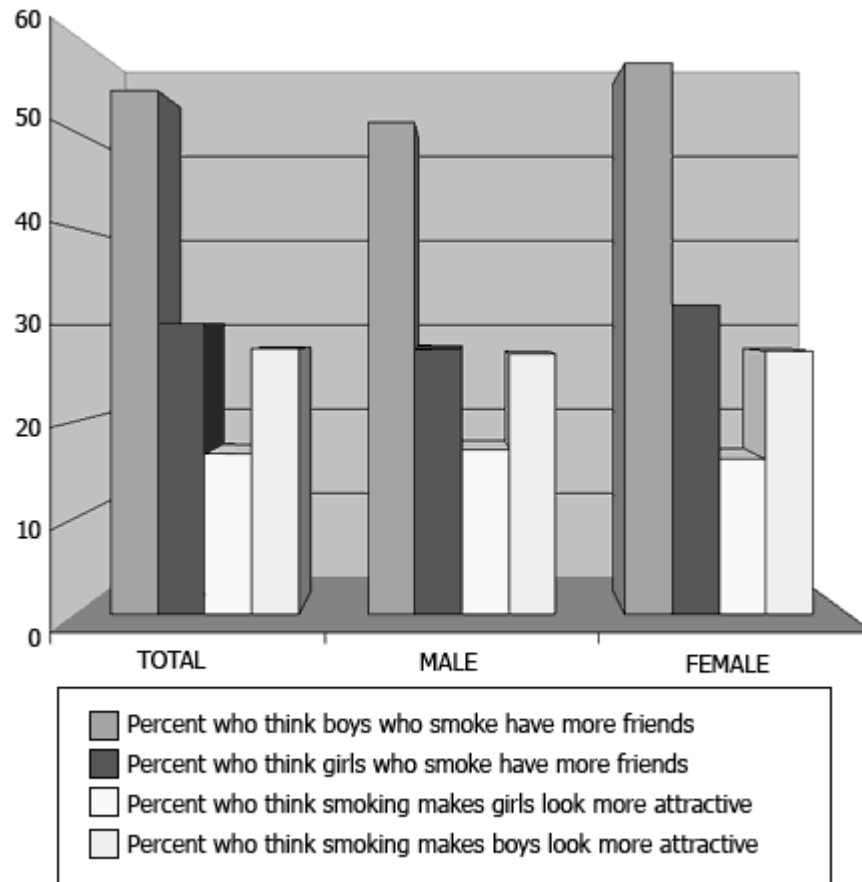
Almost 64% of the current smokers (63.5%) desire to stop while nearly 70% of current smokers (68.3%) tried to stop this year with no significance different by gender (table 4).

## Environmental Tobacco Smoke



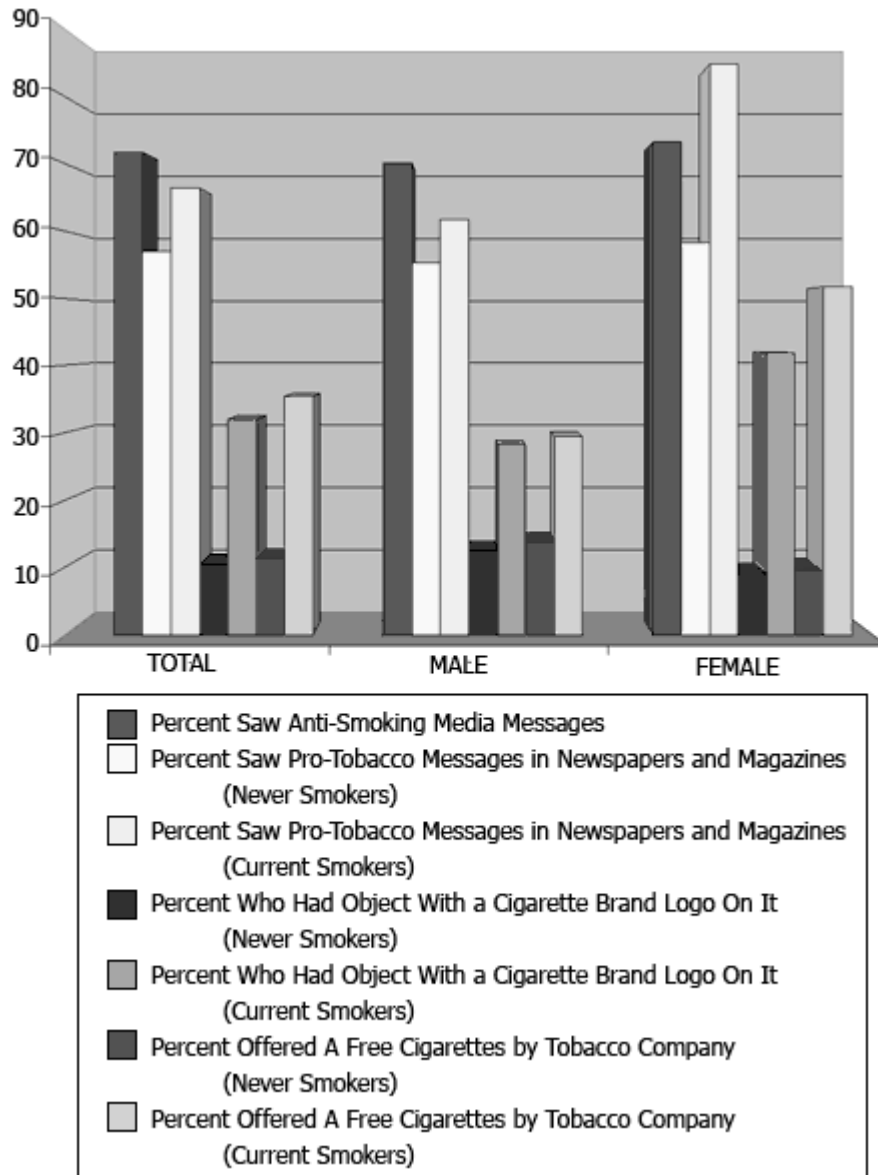
Slightly over three out of ten never smokers were exposed to tobacco smoke from others in their homes (32.2%) while six out of 10 current smokers were exposed (table 5). More than 50% of never smokers (52.6%) and more than seven out of ten never smokers (77%) had been exposed to smoke from others in public places. Seven out of ten never smokers (72.8%) think smoking should be banned from public places while almost 60% of current smokers share the same sentiments about banning smoking. Three quarters of the never smokers (75%) and six out of ten current smokers definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them. There were significant differences by gender.

## KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES



More than 55% of the never smokers (55.4%) think boys who smokers have got more friends while almost half of current smokers (49.8%) think like that too with significant differences by gender. Three out of 10 in both never smokers and current smokers think girls who smoke have more friends (30.7% and 34.1% respectively). Slightly over one quarter (26.2%) of never smokers and almost 38% current smokers think smoking makes boys look more attractive. Slightly more than 15% of never smokers (15.2%) think smoking makes girls look more attractive while more than 20% of current smokers thought smoking makes girls more attractive with females significantly higher than males (table 6)

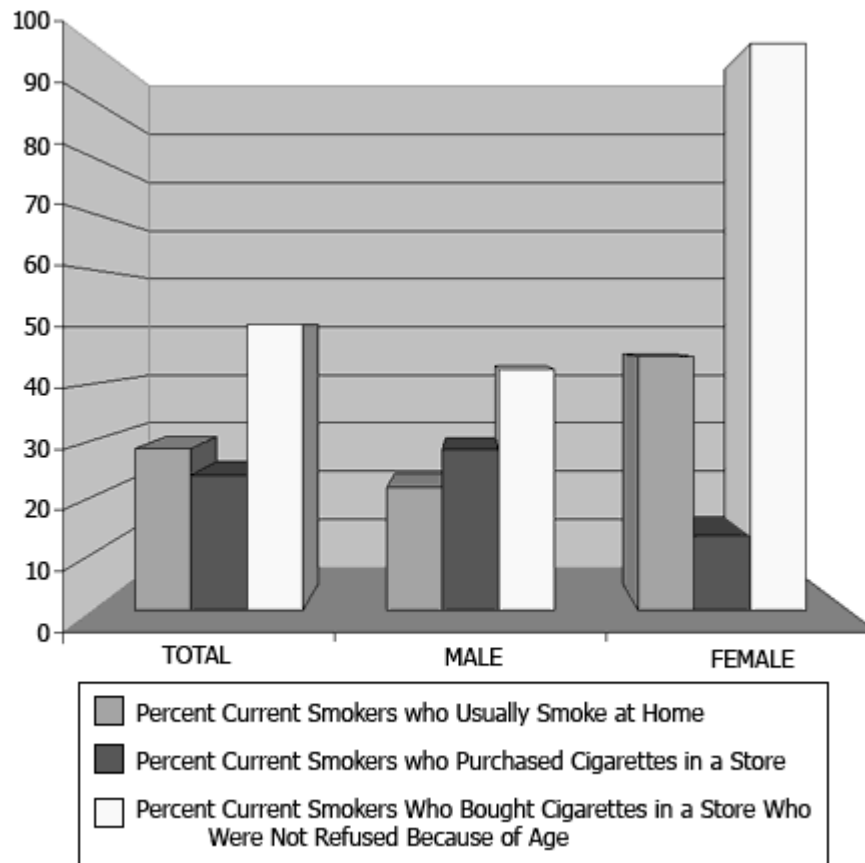
## MEDIA AND AVERTISING



Above 70% of students saw anti- smoking media messages with no significant difference by gender (table 6). Almost 60% of the never smokers (57.0%) saw pro –tobacco messages in Newspapers and Magazines while over 60% of current smokers had seen them. One out ten never smokers (10.4%) as compared to three in ten current smokers (32.0%) had objects with a cigarette brand on them. Over 10% of never smokers (11.3%)

and almost 30% of current smokers (35.5%) were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company. There were no significant differences by gender.

## ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY



Almost three out of ten students (28.6%) indicated that they usually smoked their cigarettes at homes and males were significantly higher than males in that as depicted by table 7. There was a clear indication that almost 24% of current smokers purchased their cigarettes in a store and that almost half of the students who bought cigarettes were never refused because of their age, however; only a few students answered this question.

## Conclusion



The study shows that indeed youth in this country use tobacco products as 14% currently use any form of tobacco; and 6% currently smoking cigarettes. It shows that almost two in ten students have ever smoked cigarettes and that 8% of the non smokers are likely to initiate smoking, therefore, programs to discourage that have to be set up to address the issue before it the number increases. More than half of the students think boys and girls (30%) who smoke have more friends while others think it makes them attractive. Environmental Tobacco Smoke exposure is quite high since almost four out of ten students live in homes where others smoke in their presence and almost more than half of the students are exposed to smoke in public areas. However, seven in ten students smokers and non-smokers alike think environmental tobacco smoke is harmful to them and think it should be banned from public places. The study also reveals that students are taught in schools about the dangers of smoking and why students their age smoke. Over six in ten of current smokers want to quit smoking. Media and advertising seems to be having an impact in the both the initiation and quitting smoking since more than 70% of students had seen anti- smoking messages while almost 60% had seen the pro – cigarette ads in the news papers and magazines. Tobacco companies still have a way of getting through to the youth by providing them with free cigarettes and availing objects with cigarette brand logos. The already existing cessation programs have to be intensifying to make wide coverage of the youth and also the awareness has to be intensified especially through both the school curriculum and media. Existing laws regulating tobacco products, sales and advertising have to be enforced to protect the health of the youth.